

State Water Board's Role in Delta Flows

Delta Regional Forum

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Mission

- State Water Resources Control Board's mission:

to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

- The Bay-Delta

Statewide water quality and water resource allocation issues converge

Authorities

- Dual authority for water allocation and water quality protection to provide comprehensive protection of California's waters
- Protect and enforce many water uses including needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and environment
 - More specifically referred to as beneficial uses which include: irrigation, domestic supply, power generation, spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, etc.
- Balancing role

Water Quality Control Planning

- Water Quality Control Plans
- The Bay-Delta Plan or the...
 - Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary
- Beneficial uses, objectives, program of implementation, and monitoring
- Updated periodically
- Not self-implementing

Bay-Delta Activities

- Phase 1: San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity objectives and program of implementation
- Phase 2: Comprehensive update of the rest of the Bay-Delta Plan
- Phase 3: Implement the Bay-Delta Plan through water rights
- Phase 4: Develop and implement flow objective for high priority Delta tributaries

Bay-Delta Processes Timeline

San Joaquin River Flow &
South Delta Water Quality

Comprehensive Update of Bay-Delta Plan

Plan Implementation

Delta Tributary Flow Work (through 2018 and beyond)

June
2012

June
2013

June
2014

Bay-Delta Plan Elements

➤ Phase 1

- Fish and Wildlife: San Joaquin River flows
- Agriculture: southern Delta salinity

➤ Phase 2

- Fish and Wildlife:
 - Delta Outflow (X2 or low salinity zone)
 - Sacramento River flow
 - Suisun Marsh salinity
 - Export limits and delta cross channel operation
- Agriculture: interior and western Delta, and export area salinity
- Municipal and Industrial: southwestern Delta chlorides

Relationship to BDCP

- Current Bay-Delta Plan
 - Baseline operational constraints
- Phase 2 Bay-Delta Plan Update
 - Will establish updated operational constraints (with and without the BDCP)
 - Basis for request to BDCP to evaluate a “broad range of alternatives”
- BDCP Implementation
 - Water Rights - change in (additional) point of diversion and new operations (Water Code Section 1700 and CCR 791)
 - Water Quality Cert, other water quality approvals

Phase 1: Status and Next Steps

- Public Hearing to receive oral comments:
 - Held March 20, and 21
- Revised Draft:
 - Early 2014 (tentative)
- State Water Board meeting to consider final draft SED and Bay-Delta Plan:
 - Mid-2014 (tentative)

Phase 2: Actions Completed

- Notice of Preparation: January 24, 2012
- Scoping Meeting: May 16, 2012
- Public Workshops, Fall 2012:
 - Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone
 - Bay-Delta Fishery Resources
 - Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects
- Summary Report January 2013

Phase 2: Status and Next Steps

- Delta Science Program workshops to address areas of uncertainty (tentative):
 - Delta outflow and related other stressors
 - November 12-14, 2013
 - In-Delta flows and related other stressors
 - January 2014

Phase 4: Flow Objectives for Priority Delta Tributaries

- Developing flow objectives to protect the public trust resources and other beneficial uses of water, such as agriculture, municipal, and hydropower uses
- Objectives will be tailored to each tributary based on:
 - Unique hydraulic/geomorphic characteristics
 - Public trust considerations
 - Beneficial uses of water

Phase 4: Actions Completed

- *Instream Flow Studies for the Protection of Public Trust Resources: Prioritized Schedule and Estimate of Costs*
 - Report required by the Delta Reform Act of 2009
 - Released December 2010
- Consultation with fisheries resource agencies to identify high priority tributaries

Phase 4: Current Activities

- Coordinating with Delta Stewardship Council Science Program to identify methods to develop flow objectives
(Scientific Review Fall 2013)
- Identifying stakeholders interested in collaborating with State Water Board to implement flow objectives

Questions?

The Legal Delta



Major Tributaries of the Sacramento River and North Bay-Delta Watershed

